

Message Text

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20

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 EUR-12 L-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /029 W

----- 072591

R 091530Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8948

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 8002

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CW

C YO (POD.; 3)8)

SUBJ: ARREST OF AMERICAN CITIZEN ELI POD

REF: ZAGREB 1020

1. DURING DEC 8 FAREWELL CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN SECRETARY MOJSOV AMBASSADOR RAISED ELI POD CASE MENTIONING POINTS IN REFTEL. AMBASSADOR TOLD MOJSOV HE WAS BRINGING CASE TO HIS ATTENTION PRIVATELY, QUIETLY AND QUICKLY BECAUSE DURING AN EARLIER SITUATION (I.E. TOTH CASE) MOJSOV HAD SAID THIS KIND OF APPROACH IN FUTURE INSTANCES WOULD HELP TO AVOID PROBLEMS.

2. MOJSOV FIRST SAID THAT INASMUCH AS THE CASE WAS ALREADY ADJUDICATED, IT WAS NOT BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION IN TIME. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE BROUGHT THE MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION AT ALL BUT FOR THE FAILURE TO NOTIFY OUR CONSULAR OFFICIAL IN ZAGREB OF NXTHE TIME AND DATE OF TRIAL, NOTWITHSTANDING ASSURANCES AND THE RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH MR. POD WHICH SUGGESTED A POLICE CONCERN FOR MATTERS UNRELATED TO THE ALLEGED BRIBERY. AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT AN APPEAL WOULD BE CONSIDERED DEC 10.

3. MOJSOV THEN SAID HE APPRECIATED HAVING THE CASE BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION AND SUGGESTED IT BE CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS OFFICIALS IN FSFA AS WELL. HE DENIED
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THAT THERE WAS ANY HOSTILITY AGAINST U.S. ON PART OF

SECURITY FORCES.

4. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT POSSIBLE THAT SECURITY FORCES HAD RECEIVED DISINFORMATION CONCERNING POD FROM OTHER COUNTRIES HOSTILE TO US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONSHIPS ADDING THAT WE HAVE HEARD IN DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS IN BELGRADE THAT THIS WAS THE GENESIS OF THE TOTH PROBLEM. MOJSOV OF COURSE DENIED THIS.

5. COMMENT: MY JUDGMENT IS THAT MOJSOV WAS AWARE OF THE POD CASE AND WAS NOT SURPRISED WHEN I RAISED IT. I DO NOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE FOR THE SUCCESS OF MAJSOV'S INTERVENTION BUT ONE NEVER KNOWS. SILBERMAN

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